THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 25.

IMPOLICY OF BRITISH INTERFERENCE IN SPAIN.

"How happens it that the majority of the People of Spain have no diversions at all? Even on the greatest festivals, instead of that boisterous merriment and noise which should bespeak the joy of the inhabitants, there reigns throughout the market-places and streets a slothful inactivity, a gloomy stillness, which cannot be remarked without the mingled emotions of surprise and pity. The few persons who leave their houses seem to be driven from them by listlessness, and dragged as far as the threshold, the market, or the church door. There, muffled in their cloaks, leaning against some corner, seated on some bench, or lounging backwards and forwards, without object, aim, or purpose, they pass their hours, aye, I may say, their whole evenings, without mirth, or amusement. When you add to this picture the dreariness and filth of the villages, the poor and slovenly dress of the inhabitants, the gloominess and silence of their air, the laziness, the want of concert and union so striking every where, who but would be astonished, who but would be afflicted by so mournful a phenomenon? Whatever those errors are which conspire to produce it, one point is clear—that they are ALL TO BE FOUND IN THE LAWS. The chief mistake lies in the faulty police of the villages. Hence any mob, any noise or disturbance, is termed a riot or a tumult, and every little dispute or scuffle becomes the subject of a criminal proceeding, involving in its consequences examinations and arrests, imprisonments and fines, with all the train of legal persecutions and vexations. The same system has occasioned numberless regulations of police, not only injurious to the liberties, but prejudicial to the welfare and prosperity of the villages, yet not less harshly or less rigorously enforced on that account. *There are some places where music and ringing of bells, others, where balls and marriage suppers are prohibited. In one village, the inhabitants must retire to their houses at the CURFEW; in another, they must not appear in the streets without a light; and in all, they are subject to similar restraints and privations!!* The rage for governing, in some cases perhaps the avarice of the Magistrates, has extended to the most miserable hamlets regulations which would hardly be necessary in the confusion of a metropolis; and the *wretched husbandman who has watered the earth with the sweat of his brow, and slept on the ground throughout the week*, cannot on Saturday night bawl at his will in the streets of his village, or chaunt his ballad at the door of his sweetheart."

Gracious Heaven! is this the happiness to perpetuate which the people of Spain are to rouse all their dormant energies, to act the glorious part of heroes and patriots, to pour out torrents of blood in resisting the greatest military power in the world, already in possession of the greater part of their country! That the luminous mind of Mr. SHERIDAN should entertain such a thought, is really surprising, and is only to be accounted for in the generous desire of effectual opposition to the selfish, the treacherous, the frightful ambition of NAPOLEON. The above account of the wretched state of Spain, is from Lord HOLLAND's spirited translation of part of an eloquent treatise by MELCHOR DE JOVELLANOS, late Minister of Justice in Spain, "a man, who after having devoted the labours and even the amusements of his useful life to the improvement and happiness of his fellow-countrymen, is now languishing in the dungeons of Palma, *imprisoned without an accusation and condemned without the form of a trial!*" We trust the present revolution will release him.—Such is the administration of Justice in Spain! Indeed, in that, as well as in every other respect, the internal polity of Spain has not its parallel in the world for despotism. From the best accounts I have examined of the latest British travellers, their financial and agricultural, as well as trading and commercial systems, are ruinous to the comforts and subversive of the spirit and population of the people. All the world knows that the celibacy of their Clergy and every other part of their religious system are equally so. The insurrection of the passions and appetites against reason takes place of the benign and virtuous influence on the heart in matrimony. The proud national prejudice against trade, which has existed ever since the expulsion of the Jews and Moors, who practised it for the Spaniards, is rendered doubly injurious to the welfare of the State by restrictive laws, which are so rigidly enforced, that the Barber who trims mustachios is not at liberty to manufacture a wig, or the workman who mends a wheel to make one. Trading corporations, with exclusive privileges, every where abound. Thus is the industry and enterprize of the artizan checked, and indolence and poverty created. The lands are chiefly in possession of the Grandees, who individually possess immense tracts, which are cultivated on the lord's account, and not on that of substantial tenants; they are therefore unpopulous and unproductive, and one of the finest countries in the world is thus rendered scanty of inhabitants. Did it possess the happy polity of Britain, it might support three times the number of people. Instead of ten it might contain thirty millions. The poverty, the government-induced indolence, and oppression of the Spaniards, torpify their otherwise lively intellects, and the reign of ignorance is confirmed. Not a ray of genius now penetrates the thick gloom of mental inaction. The arts, the beautiful progeny of elevated intellect and public prospe-

rity, are prostrate. The laurels of literature and science are unable to shoot up in the sterile soil and chilling atmosphere of despotism, for the press, the machine necessary to cultivate the land of the Muses, is annihilated. Nature is outraged and counteracted in all her gifts. In the luxuriance of the Spanish soil, and cheerfulness of her climate, she smiles; but her smiles are seen by the degraded Spaniards through the tears which are forced from them by financial exaction, by religious bigotry, by a galling servitude. In vain for them, innumerable rivers and streams carry fertility through their land. In vain does her almost spontaneous soil invite the inactive hand to cultivate with a little industry the richest fruits and most valuable grains. In vain does nature offer to regale the smell with the odorous perfume of the lemon and orange grove, and the perpetual fragrance of flowers, or the ear with the melody of nightingales heard all the year round. Nature is exuberant in vain!—The poison of despotism taints every gift! Can Spaniards then be strenuous to fight for a Government which has thus impiously counteracted the blessings of nature and the beneficent intentions of heaven;—for a Government which mistakingly consulting its own selfish views, has done nothing to excite the regard of the people, and to secure its protection in the season of danger? Surely not. Though despotism has degraded their minds, it has not made them idiots.—Though it has impaired their attachment to civil liberty, it has not rendered them insensible to the common blessings of existence. A few bigotted men, instigated by their priests, and others interested in the old vile system, may oppose the conqueror, but the Spanish nation in general can have no sufficient motive to fight for it. We may obtain a city or two on the coast, and create a fresh La Vendee, but there will be no *general* insurrection. In a change of rulers the Spaniards *cannot be worse off*. They have at least *a chance of being better*. It will be the interest of their new government to render them so, and they look for it in the French, who, notwithstanding the tyrannical sway of NAPOLEON, are happy and enlightened *in comparison with them*. An Englishman very properly looks with disgust at the condition to which NAPOLEON has reduced the press in France, which dares not issue a word in complaint of the misconduct of its rulers; but it must be allowed that the revolution, though it has ended in the despotic rule of an individual, has obtained France many benefits, although *political liberty* is not among the number. The French devotion to the polite arts, which ameliorate the manners, and to the sciences, which elevate the understandings and improve the happiness of man, will be communicated to the Spaniards, and will doubtless gradually enlighten and benefit them.

For all these reasons, I am glad to see the caution of our Ministry in sending our gallant troops to Spain, as I will venture to forebode, that every British soldier that goes on so hopeless an expedition, will go either to foul retreat or slaughter. Of the former I blush, of the latter I shudder to think!

Some people fancy that though the Spaniards would not resist the French for a continuation of their old system, they would resist them to establish a free Government and a King of their own choice. This might be the glorious result were the minds of the Spaniards accustomed, like those of Englishmen, to the contemplation of liberty, and they were in the least familiarised to it's sweets. But alas! the poor Spaniards are too depressed in their spirits, their bodies, and their understandings, to be animated with so necessary, so noble an enthusiasm. They feel no attachment to, and even hate their former Government; but it is too much to hope that a people who have so long languished in ignorance and servility, will in a moment attain that vigour of mind, that elevation of sentiment, that defiance of danger, that sudden revolution in their mental and bodily faculties, to rouse them to so sublime a struggle with the French, or to enable them, were they even inclined, to act with sufficient skill and concert to resist the most successful, the most wily, the most scientific, and, except the people of England, whose superior valour they have fatally experienced, the most courageous soldiers in Europe. Let us for a moment suppose 200,000 French soldiers were in possession of London and other parts of England, after having disarmed the inhabitants of the capital and the other places which they occupied: that besides this, they had the sea open to the pouring in of immense bodies of their veteran troops, advantages similar to those they now have in Spain,—would there not be rational ground for alarm for the independence of Britain? The French being thus situated in Spain, is there any reasonable hope that a people in every respect so infinitely inferior to Englishmen, can possibly rescue their country from the French grasp?

R. H.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY.

BANKS OF THE MAINE, MAY 20.—A letter from Vienna says, "Our foreign relations are managed as usual with secrecy, and nothing, as is proper, reaches the public. But the tranquillity which prevails here generally, and more particularly with regard to military preparations, shews that the warlike reports propagated abroad are premature and unfounded."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, JUNE 13.

The Order of the Day was read for considering of the Message relative to the Subsidiary Treaty entered into with his Sicilian Majesty.

Lord HAWKESBURY conceived, that the defence of Sicily, the principal object of this treaty, was, at all times, of essential importance to the interests of this country. It was provided, that the sum of 300,000l. to be furnished by us, should be expended in making the most effectual preparations for the security of that island. The only other provision in the treaty, that which stipulated for a joint-negociation, was one which, he had no doubt, would be equally approved of by their Lordships. He concluded with moving an Address, which was, as usual, an echo of his Majesty's Message.

Lord HOLLAND, as far as he had now the means of forming a correct judgment, was induced to give Ministers his approbation in continuing the subsidy to the King of Naples. Recollecting the manner in which he was in the

year 1805 involved in hostilities; and that if we did not propose, we at least concurred in the invasion of his dominions by the Russians, he thought we were, in honour, bound to give him all the assistance in our power. He hoped, however, that due circumspection would be exerted in securing the application of the money to its professed purpose.

The motion for the Address was then agreed to *nem. dis.*—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14.

Lord SUFFOLK complained, that no returns were yet on the table relative to the produce of the Droits of Admiralty.

Lord HAWKESBURY said, he could not account for the delay. He could assure the Noble Lord, that the Order of the House had been regularly transmitted to the proper officer.

Lord SUFFOLK hoped that the return would be speedily forthcoming. Some account ought certainly to be given of the application of a sum of 1,500,000l. or perhaps 2,000,000l. which the Droits were supposed to amount to.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15.

The Irish Auction Duty Bill, and several other Bills, were read a third time and passed.

Lord SUFFOLK then took occasion to re-state what he had said the preceding evening, on the subject of the Droits of Admiralty; his observations having been misrepresented in one of the public journals. He wished, however, not to be understood as complaining of the practice of reporting what passed in that House. On the contrary, he was anxious that those who devoted themselves to that labour, should have more facilities than they now had of executing the task with correctness. He could wish that they were indulged with taking notes; a practice which, he believed, was now permitted in the other House. He was convinced, that the day upon which the public should cease to know the proceedings of Parliament, would be the forerunner of the speedy extinction of their liberties.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16.

The Pauper Lunatic Bill and the Paddington Canal Coal Bill were read a third time and passed.

Lord GRENVILLE then rose to address their Lordships on the Bank of Ireland Charter Bill. The Charter was granted in 1782, with a clause excluding Roman Catholics from the situations of Governor or Director. A variety of laws had, however, passed between the period alluded to and 1793, highly favourable to the Catholics. By the Act of 1793, they were rendered admissible to all situations, but a number of civil and military offices therein enumerated, and it was expressly enacted that no *Bye-laws* should operate to prevent their admission into Corporations. The word *Charters*, however, being omitted, it was a point of much doubt whether they were or were not eligible as Governors or Director of the Bank of Ireland. It was natural to suppose that in renewing the charter this doubt would be settled one way or the other; but instead of this the expedient of a saving clause was hit upon, which would leave this important matter still undecided. His Lordship stated a number of objections to this mode of getting rid of the question, and concluded with moving, that the opinion of the Judges should be taken upon it.

Lord HAWKESBURY said the renewal of the Charter was taken up by Government merely as a financial measure. The question relative to the Catholic proprietors was purely incidental; and the intention of the clause alluded to was evidently that of leaving it untouched. But it would be a very easy thing to bring it to a regular judicial decision, by electing a Catholic. It would then come on in the Exchequer Chamber in Dublin, and if the decision of the Judges there was not satisfactory, an appeal would of course lay, by writ of error, to their Lordships. This he apprehended was the proper course to be pursued. With respect to his own opinion on the matter, he would distinctly state, that he would take his stand on the Act of Union; being desirous neither to enlarge nor diminish the privileges of which, by any legal decision, the Catholics should be declared to have been then in possession.

Lords Holland and Roslyn supported the motion, and Lords Harrowby and Mulgrave opposed it, when a division taking place, it was negatived by a majority, proxies included, of 94 to 33.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17.

ADMIRALTY DROITS.

Lord SUFFOLK repeated his wish that their Lordships should have laid on the table an account of the Droits of Admiralty, resulting from the sale of the Danish ships. He was also desirous of knowing how the amount had been applied. This was the more necessary, as he had no manner of doubt that the whole sum would at last be paid to Denmark *out of the pockets of the people of this country.* In this case the Droits were calculated at more than a million and a half, and when he recollected that of late years the practice had been to commence hostilities in this mode, he could not but think that Parliament should exercise tenfold vigilance as to the disposal of money so accruing to the Crown. The prospect of such a prize would have been a sufficient inducement to place us in a state of war without any other provocation, in the times of that unprincipled Monarch Charles II. or his infatuated brother James. He was well assured that it was owing to the apprehension of this practice being enforced with regard to the Americans that the Congress laid on an embargo in their ports; and they acted wisely, for without that step the seas might have been swept of their vessels, and they would have sustained a loss of several millions. He would appeal to a Noble Friend near him (Holland) who had personal and local opportunity of knowing the fact, whether it was not the exercise of these Droits of Admiralty *which lost us the affections of the whole Spanish nation.* His Lordship concluded with moving an Address for the production of the account alluded to.

Lord HAWKESBURY said, he had that very day made enquiry respecting the delay of the return to the former Order of the House; and the reason assigned was, that there remained a very considerable number of the cargoes yet undisposed of. The consequence necessarily was, that the letter of the Order could not be complied with.

Lord HOLLAND could not think it right that so productive a fund should exist in this country exempt from the controul of Parliament. *He must speak out, let the offence light where it may. He did not think the country fairly dealt with in this matter. Notwithstanding an express contract between the Crown and the Public, concluded 48 years ago, five times since that period had we paid off the arrears of the Civil List; and recently a large and liberal addition had been made to it.* In the discussion of former periods, it had never been contemplated that the hereditary and contingent revenues left to the Crown could accumulate to such an extent as they had done of late years. But Parliament should turn its attention not only to the financial, but also to the political view of the question.—He could not suppose that the booty to be acquired had, in our times, operated as a temptation to warfare. But it should be remembered, that within the last half century our wars had been frequent, and all of them had been signalized by captures previous to hostilities. It was, therefore, of importance that it should appear to the nations of Europe, that this

practice, if fit to exist, stood entirely upon principles of public utility.

Lord HAWKESBURY said, there could be no indisposition on the part of Government to produce the required account, when it could be regularly made up. When that was on the table, a proper opportunity would occur for entering into the subject of the application of the sums resulting from the Droits of Admiralty. He could only at present state, that it would be found that but a small portion of them was appropriated to the personal advantage of the Sovereign.

The motion was then withdrawn.

LOCAL MILITIA.

The order of the day being read for going into a Committee on the Local Militia Bill,

Lord HAWKESBURY explained the various objects of the measure. A great part of the Volunteer force had already offered to convert their services into that of a Local Militia, and the great value of the new arrangement would be, that it would gradually substitute a permanent system for that voluntary service, which, from various circumstances, could not be expected to be maintained to the same extent, and with the same enthusiasm, as when the service presented the attractions of novelty.

Lord SELKIRK approved of the principle of the Bill, but thought it did not go far enough. He wished to have the population of the country gradually trained to arms, by calling out in succession all those of a particular age, in the early part of life.

Lord BUCKINGHAMSHIRE highly approved of the Bill. The principal thing wanting to complete our military system was, to make the service of the Militia co-extensive with the limits of the united kingdom. This was particularly desirable for the defence of Ireland, which would be exposed to greater danger than at any former period, should Bonaparte succeed in establishing his Government in Spain—an event for which we ought to be prepared.

Lord HOLLAND objected to the Bill as being founded on an ill-sorted composition of compulsion and voluntary service, and as leading to the establishment of a force which would possess the advantages neither of a regular army, nor of an armed peasantry.

The House having gone into a Committee, Lord SELKIRK proposed an amendment, pursuant to the idea previously thrown out by him. It was negatived without a division.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, JUNE 13.

SUPPLY.

Mr. PERCEVAL brought down the customary Message from his Majesty near to the close of a Session, on the subject of granting his Majesty a Vote of Credit for carrying on the War, and for counteracting the designs of the enemy.—Referred to a Committee of Supply.

Mr. PERCEVAL moved the order of the day for the House resolving itself into a Committee or Supply, and also that the report of the Committee on the affairs of the East India Company be referred to the said Committee.—The Committee was gone into:—

Mr. DUNDAS moved a resolution granting 1,500,000l. to the East India Company, on account of public services carried on by them in India. On this resolution a discussion ensued of some length. It was resisted by Lord Folkestone and Mr. Creevey, and supported by Mr. Tierney, Sir J. Anstruther, Mr. Wilberforce, and Lord Morpeth. It was carried without a division.

Mr. PERCEVAL proposed that the sum of 300,000l. be granted to his Sicilian Majesty, agreeably to Treaty.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought the sum very extraordinary, without the least prospect of benefit to this country.

Mr. CANNING contended, that as his Sicilian Majesty had followed the fortunes of this country, we were bound to protect him.

On this a desultory conversation took place between Lord H. Petty, Mr. Windham, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Bankes, and Mr. Huskisson, when the item was agreed to.

Mr. PERCEVAL next proposed 50,000l. as a compensation to the sufferers in Dominica, for the ravages committed by the French, when they invaded that island; which was agreed to without a division.

Four thousand pounds were then voted the American Commissioners—6,790l. 10s. to the British Museum; and 5,000l. to repair Margate Pier.

Mr. FOSTER proposed 10,000l. for improving Holyhead Harbour.

On this a desultory discussion took place, when the House divided—For the resolution 131—Against it 48.

On our return to the Gallery, we found Mr. LONG proposing the sum of 75,200l. for the improvements round both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. SHERIDAN objected to it, on the ground that the great number of houses to be pulled down would throw a heavy burthen on the parish.

Mr. SPEAKER defended the grant, and said, it originated in an Act passed two years ago, and being mostly inhabited by poor people, it could not possibly add, but rather diminish the poor rates.

Mr. BANKES moved an amendment, reducing the sum to 45,000l.

Mr. WHITBREAD supported the amendment.

Mr. HERBERT suggested the propriety of taking down St. Margaret's Church, in order to the more splendid display of the Abbey.

The amendment was negatived without a division, and the original motion was carried.

Sir T. TURTON moved that 54,704l. 10s. be granted to Mr. Palmer, as his per centage on the increased rate of postage.

This was opposed by Mr. C. Wynne and Lord Petty, and supported by Mr. Sheridan, when the Committee divided—Ayes 93—Noes 73—Majority in favour of Mr. Palmer 20.

On the question for the third reading of the Bill for suspending Distillation from Grain, a debate ensued, in which no novelty of argument on either side occurred; but a division took place, when there appeared—Ayes 74—Noes 34. Mr. G. Davies then withdrew his amendment, and the Bill passed.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, when it was agreed that one or more Lotteries, to consist of 60,000 tickets, should take place in the ensuing year.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14.

The Hare Shooting, the Barrack Commissioners Franking, and the Irish Malt Duties Bills were read a third time, and passed.

The Dublin Police Bill was, on the motion of Sir A. WELLESLEY, read a third time and passed.

Sir C. POLE stated the necessity that existed for there being three Proctors, in addition to the King's Proctor, in all cases tried before the Court of Admiralty, and moved a resolution that such was the opinion of the House.

The ADVOCATE GENERAL remarked that it was an inexpedient measure, so far as it related to the Navy. The institution of King's Proctor had existed since the Fire of London, 1666, and such appointment belonged to the Crown. Unless, therefore, the Hon. Baronet could make out cases of incapacity or neglect of the duties, or if he could not prove professional inability on the part of the King's Proctor, he should resist the motion, as the office of King's Proctor was tenable only during pleasure, and was of course a pretty strong hold on him that he would not neglect his duty.

Mr. H. MARTIN supported the motion; urging the immense mass of business relating to cases of prize, which existed in the Court of Admiralty, which certainly required more Proctors than one, namely, the King's.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL spoke against the motion, as it was contrary to established usage.

Mr. WHITBREAD contended, that it was absolutely necessary to interfere, in order to put the office of King's Proctor on a different footing.

Mr. PERCEVAL opposed the motion.

Sir S. ROMILLY was convinced that abuses had existed during the period the former Proctor held the office, as causes were prosecuted and defended in the same office.

The House divided—For the motion 16—Against it 35.

The ADVOCATE GENERAL brought in a Bill to extend the provisions of the Prize Act to foreign troops and ships, so that they might have an equal share of prizes captured in conjunction with his Majesty's troops and ships.

The House then went into a Committee on the Curate's Bill, when several amendments were proposed and agreed to. A considerable time was consumed in discussing these amendments.

The SPEAKER proposed one for enforcing the residence of Curates on their Benefices; but allowing them to be absent occasionally, upon leave given by the Bishop of the Diocese.

Lord Petty supported the clause, and Mr. Windham also spoke in its favour. The Solicitor General resisted it, and several other Gentlemen spoke in its support. It was carried without a division.

The Bill was then gone through.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15.

Read a third time and passed the Irish Spirits, the Irish Loan, the Barrack Commissioners' Franking, the American Trade, the Exchequer Bills, and the redeemed Bank Stock Bills.

CRIMINAL LAW.

Sir S. ROMILLY moved the order of the day for the House resolving into a Committee on the Bill for repealing the Act of the 8th of Elizabeth, rendering privately stealing from the person a capital offence.

Mr. BURTON disapproved of certain parts of the Bill. He said, that the holding out of terror for committing this offence had hitherto been ineffectual, and more harm than good might be done by the Bill putting an end to the capital punishment, and making it punishable as grand larceny. He went on to state, that the persons who committed the crime of privately stealing, were those who frequented all places of public resort, such as courts of law, theatres, and even churches, attired in such elegant dresses as to do away every idea of their being thieves. He concluded by suggesting that the Bill might be so modified as that the punishment might be transportation for life, or 14 or seven years, in proportion to the enormity of the offences committed, or that they might be confined to hard labour for five, six, or seven years.

Mr. HERBERT thought the Bill so signally important, that he should entreat the learned promoter of it to delay it till the next Session.

Sir A. PIGGOTT supported the Bill of his Learned Friend. It had been said that it was dangerous to alter the criminal law. The law which the Bill went to repeal had been in existence for two centuries and nearly one half, and notwithstanding all the examples that had been made, the crime of privately stealing was still undiminished. On every ground, therefore, it was obvious that the Bill should be allowed to proceed.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL would not deliver his opinion on the Bill until it should come out of the Committee. He would state at present, that the tendency of his mind was hostile to it.

Sir A. Piggott explained, and Mr. C. Wynne supported the Bill, contending, that from the neglect in not executing sentence on persons convicted of such offences, all dread of punishment was done away, and it certainly would be better to make the law positive, and enforce it, rather than leave it in its present state, where the executive did not chuse to put it in execution.

Mr. Ponsonby supported the Bill, and Sir R. Millbank expressed himself decidedly in its favour.

Sir S. ROMILLY replied to all the arguments urged against the Bill, contending generally, that the reason why persons convicted under the Act were not executed, was caused by the dread of going too far. He meant to remove that difficulty by reducing the punishment to mere larceny, instead of continuing it as a capital offence.

The House then went into a Committee; when a distinct clause was proposed by the Solicitor General, which was opposed by Mr. Windham, Mr. Horner, Mr. Abercromby, Sir S. Romilly, and Sir T. Bunbury, and supported by Mr. Burton, when the Bill was ordered to be re-committed on this day se'nnight.

SPAIN.

Mr. SHERIDAN said, that it had been given out, that he was going to take upon him to advise his Majesty's Ministers how they ought to proceed in the present crisis, but nothing was ever further from his intentions. He had also received a sort of rebuke from an Hon. Friend near him (Mr. Whitbread), who supposed that he meant to make a motion which should take away from Ministers all the responsibility they might incur as to the conduct they might pursue with regard to Spain. His Hon. Friend near him, with all his excellent talents and honourable independence, was still pertinaciously fixed to his own opinions, and he had found it difficult to make him believe the contrary. He had, therefore, got into this extraordinary dilemma: he was suspected by the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite to him of meaning mischief to the Government, and by his Hon. Friend near him of intending to serve Ministers. He was very sorry to perceive an idea could have been formed, that he was so destitute of judgment or reason as to think of coming down to that House for the purpose of lecturing Government on a question of so much delicacy and importance as this must be acknowledged to be. He must, however, acknowledge that, since the first burst of the French Revolution, nothing of so favourable a nature had occurred as the present enthusiasm which existed in the province of Asturias, and if that enthusiasm should become general throughout Spain, such an opportunity of striking a decisive blow had never happened, as it seemed to him the present was. It had been said, if he was disposed to trust his Majesty's Ministers, why come down to Parliament, and endeavour to implicate them to the measures of the Executive Government? He confessed he was disposed to trust his Right Hon. Friend; but he was only one of that body, and he thought they ought not to deal out their assistance by driblets, but if they should be induced to grant it, that it should be done in such a way as might give a fair chance of its being attended with success. He was sorry to say there had never been a Cabinet that had acted on one clear and defined principle, or that had kept in view any one decided object. When they had determined to do one thing, they almost immediately afterwards proceeded to do another; and instead of striking at the core and heart of the subject they kept nibbling about the rind till the opportunity was altogether lost of doing any thing effectual. When the first step was taken, instead of following it up with others which would have given it effect, their efforts became paralysed by some paltry dispute about a sugar island; and the main object was immediately dismissed from their sight. If in the present instance it should be thought necessary to take part with Spain, he hoped we should have no personal interest in it, but that Ministers would stand out boldly to give them assistance, solely for the sake of enabling them to make a stand against

the gigantic power which was now using every exertion to overwhelm them, and which, if it succeeded, would have accomplished its tyrannical views of subjugating the whole Continent of Europe. He did not wish or mean to exhort Ministers to any wild achievement with respect to Spain, but only that they should not omit to avail themselves of the striking circumstances of the times. If there was not an almost universal enthusiasm throughout the country, then nothing could be done; but if it should be shewn that such an enthusiasm did generally prevail there, in his opinion it should be met with a similar spirit here. Bonaparte had hitherto fought with Princes who had been misled and infatuated, and Ministers, who had been most mistaken, if not corrupt, but all of whom seemed destitute both of foresight and fortitude. He had never yet fought with a people, much less with a people who felt themselves roused by a noble indignation, at the manner in which he had endeavoured to force his tyranny and oppression upon them. He could not conceive any reason why this subject should not be discussed in that House. On the contrary, he thought the greatest benefit might result from it. The noble and generous spirits of the Spaniards will be strengthened and supported by the knowledge that the sentiments of the British Parliament were congenial with their own; and that they were desirous of affording them every possible assistance in the glorious struggle in which they were engaged. If the enthusiasm of Spain be really roused, the Tyrant of the Earth would feel—all Europe would feel—that if his Majesty's Ministers do interfere in the present contest between Spain and France, that those Ministers in so doing will be strenuously supported by Parliament, and that could not fail to give an additional spirit and force to the enterprize. He thought this was a striking and most important crisis in the present eventful state of the world. Poor Asturias was actually committed; they must now go on and fight it out, or submit to the severest oppression and degradation. He would not say that we should absolutely follow their *fate*; but there never was any thing more honourable than their present enthusiasm and noble resolution to resist the invader and oppressor of their country. He did not mean to say that Ministers ought to enter into any romantic schemes; but if the enthusiasm which had been roused in Asturias should spread throughout other parts of Spain, he hoped and trusted that Ministers would act boldly, and let them see that England entered freely into their generous views, and would give them every possible assistance in their power. If Ministers did this, they should have his cordial support; and if circumstances were such, as he sanguinely hoped they were, the next discussion would shew that Ministers would go on with the approbation of Parliament; and that could not fail to have a favourable effect in every part of the world where it should be known. Under these circumstances he thought it his duty to bring forward his motion, which was—"That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, requesting that he would be graciously pleased to order that there be laid before that House, copies of all such Proclamations as had been received by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, since the French army arrived at Madrid, and the names of the Officers by whom such Proclamations were issued."

Mr. Secretary CANNING said there had been no anticipation of this motion on that side of the House, and if his Right Hon. Friend thought, from any thing that had passed between them, that he was in any respect favourable to it, his Right Hon. Friend must have very much misunderstood him. The fact was, it was impossible that the motion could be complied with, because some of the Proclamations had not come into the hands of Government, properly authenticated; and in others, many persons were mentioned, whose names it would be altogether highly improper to disclose. At the same time he hoped his Right Hon. Friend would believe that he found no fault with his motion, and that the pledge he had given of his cordial support, and that of his friends near him, would, he had no doubt, have a very considerable and important effect. He certainly should not have imputed blame to his Right Hon. Friend, if he had chalked out a line such as he thought ought to be adopted; but as it was, his speech called for as short an answer as possible, which, without in any degree committing Ministers as to any future proceedings, he would briefly state. His Majesty's Ministers viewed, with as deep and lively a sense as he did, the noble and generous spirit of the Spaniards, and the indignation which they felt on observing the conduct of the French towards them. There was every disposition in his Majesty's Government to afford them assistance, if it should be found likely to be available; and in affording that assistance, if it should be found necessary, it would never occur to Government that there was any state of warfare between Spain and this country. On the contrary, if assistance should be afforded, the first object would be to direct the united efforts of both countries against the common enemy; the next, that it should be done in such a manner as would be beneficial to both parties; and thirdly, to do that which was best calculated for British interests. Those were the feelings by which he was actuated, and those he believed were the feelings which stimulated his Right Hon. Friend to bring forward the present motion. There might be a crisis in which those feelings might be carried into effect; but as that was a matter which must be determined by future circumstances, which could not at present be determined upon, he hoped his Right Hon. Friend would not take it amiss if he resisted his motion.

Mr. G. PONSONBY said, he confessed he could have wished that his Right Hon. Friend had not brought forward his present motion, because he thought it unnecessary, and altogether uncalled for. The Right Hon. Gentleman opposite, who had just sat down, had very fairly acknowledged that it was impossible to say at present how far Government might find it necessary to employ forces, or any other means, towards the assistance of Spain. He always thought the same. How then could this motion be attended with any good?

Mr. WHITBREAD said, his Right Hon. Friend, in bringing forward his motion, had applied his argument so personally to him, that he hoped the House would permit him to make a few observations in his own justification. In supposing that he had meant any thing he said as a matter of reproach or rebuke, his Right Hon. Friend must either have misunderstood or misheard him. He had said, he wished he would not bring forward such a motion; but he did not, in so saying, mean any rebuke, nor to infer that his Right Hon. Friend was actuated by any wish or desire to take away the responsibility of Ministers; and he thought his Right Hon. Friend had not dealt very kindly or candidly by him, when, amidst all the compliments he had paid him as to industry and honourable independence, he accused him of being pertinaciously fixed to his own opinion. He flattered himself he had never shewn any extraordinary pertinacity of that kind; but how any man could evince an honourable independence, without supporting his own opinions, he was at a loss to conceive. As to his Majesty's present Ministers, he had always and uniformly said, he thought them unequal to the task of governing this kingdom in the way in which its interests would be best consulted and administered; and in this particular case he could not suppose they would see their way much more clearly than they had done in others which were not attended with so much delicacy, and surrounded by so many difficulties as this. He wished the motion should not be brought forward, because he knew how much his Right Hon. Friend was master of the passions, and when he again struck his golden lyre, he owned that he was afraid that his powers of persuasion might prevail with the House to an interference with their opinion of

what properly belonged to Ministers alone to conduct. He thought that Ministers should be left in this, as in other matters, to act on their responsibility; and he appealed to his Right Hon. Friend, if he, in so thinking, had not more actual confidence in Ministers than he (Mr. Sheridan) who came down to give them his confidence, and endeavoured to back it with that of the House of Commons. He thought that any delivery of the sentiments of that House, at the present moment, would be dangerous to the brave Spaniards, and that any such enthusiasm in that House might ultimately injure instead of serving them. The Right Hon. Secretary had, however, gone too far in inferring that the measures of Government would meet with the concurrence of his Right Hon. Friend, and with that of his friends also: for his Right Hon. Friend had not given any such pledge, and against any such idea as that he must beg leave to enter his protest. Ministers might come to Parliament for money; but they ought to be answerable for the expenditure of it, without making Parliament a party in their responsibility. His Right Hon. Friend had talked of the tyrant of the world and the common enemy of mankind. Such expressions did not stand for much, and would to God he could say that England could come into this contest with pure hands! Would to God the Spaniards had not to recollect their frigates seized and their territories invaded! The Right Hon. Secretary had given a brief description of the views of Ministers in case they should enter into the contest. Would to God he had kept to the first part of his declaration of nothing but Spanish objects, and had not brought in the last, which concluded with British objects. Those objects, he was sorry to say, were inauspicious and ominous; for "British objects," in the last war, had ruined every thing. The Hon. Secretary had said the Papers moved for could not be given. Where then could arise any benefit from this motion? The expression of Parliament on such a subject ought not to be given. If Ministers wanted it, they should come and ask for it.

Mr. Secretary CANNING, in explanation, said, he only mentioned "British objects," for the purpose of distinctly declaring that if Ministers entered into the contest, that there would be no object with them equal to Spanish success, and no conquest so glorious as that of wresting from France the integrity of the Spanish dominions in every quarter of the globe.

Mr. WINDHAM could not help adverting to the unfavourable aspect and auspices under which the Right Hon. Secretary had opened the short speech he had delivered. He could not but take notice of his disingenuous conduct in attempting to infer, that because his Right Hon. Friend, who brought forward this motion, had said he would give Ministers his support, that this declaration implicated also the general support of those who sat near him, and with whom he usually acted. This was so far from being the case, that his Right Hon. Friend near him had thought it necessary to protest against it, and he should so far follow his example. One of the points to which he alluded, was that his Right Hon. Friend had expressed a hope that we should do a great deal towards assisting the enthusiasm of the Spaniards. He did not know how much he meant by the expression, but if he meant that we should furnish them with a large army, he was afraid we could not afford it. The point in which he concurred with his Right Hon. Friend was, that Ministers should not suffer any little, selfish, paltry policy to govern them—no British interest to interfere, and, in the midst of harmony, to produce discord and subsequent ruin, as had been the case in the last war. The Right Hon. Gentleman said he had no objection to the subject being discussed; internal commotion was, in his opinion, most likely to prove successful. He then went into a long account of his opinions at the commencement of the French Revolution, in which he was always an advocate for supporting the insurrections which took place in La Vendee, and he thought if those people had been more early and more systematically assisted by this country, that a very different issue would have been the consequence. He should be glad, however, to find that more successful measures should be adopted in future, and he hoped Spain would become another La Vendee to all Europe. He joined heartily with his Right Hon. Friend who made this motion in his exhortation to Ministers, or rather his exhortation that they should desist from all selfish, petty policy. Let them endeavour to make the Spaniards forget the stain they had suffered in the seizure of their frigates before any declaration of war, and the invasion of their territories in South America, under an officer of their own. He did not join with others in deprecating his Right Hon. Friend's motion; on the contrary, he thought that, if properly understood, it might be of great advantage, though if exaggerated, it might, by misleading the Spaniards, in holding forth to them the hope of more assistance than we could possibly afford, prove of serious prejudice and injury to them. He confessed he was glad that the public mind should be known on this subject; and so far in his mind was it from taking from the responsibility of Ministers, that it would rather add to it.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, that Gentlemen in different parts of the House might have a difference of opinion with respect to the motion itself; but he thought the House and the country must all agree that in the manner of bringing it forward, the Right Hon. Gentleman had so conducted himself, that no harm could possibly ensue from it, and that much good might be produced by it. The Right Hon. Gentleman had, on the present occasion as well as in several others, given a most convincing proof that whenever the interest of his country required it, he could, like a true Patriot, lay aside his party animosities, and cordially give his support to any measure which Ministers might adopt that he thought could really prove of service, and tend to their advancement. He wished he could see that disposition of the Right Hon. Gentleman more generally adopted by those who sat near him, and was surprised to find there was so general a disposition among them to disavow and disown the conduct he had pursued. He was much discouraged when he heard the chilling comment of the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Ponsonby), as to the subsidy of the King of Sweden, that he voted for it not so much in the idea that it would at all enable him to carry on the war, which he had shewn himself so desirous to do; but as he coldly expressed it, that he might therewith purchase a peace from the tyrant with whom he was engaged in war. That Right Hon. Gentleman, however, on the present occasion, would give a Vote of Credit, on condition that Ministers should be left to act entirely on their responsibility, and that no countenance should be given by the sentiments of the House of Commons as to any assistance it might be found necessary to give to Spain. The Right Hon. Gentleman had, however, brought forward the question in a candid, fair, manly way, and he was sorry he should sit among a set of individuals who threw something more than cold water on it. The Right Hon. Gentleman near him (Mr. Windham), had long been in the habit of opposing Governments with whom he acted, and in which he kept his place to the very last moment.—No wonder, therefore, he should at the conclusion of his speech, resort to the old theme of the Spanish frigates, and advise Ministers to appease them for their plundered treasure. That Right Hon. Gentleman, with a peculiar grace, objected to ship-stealing, after sending his Majesty's ships to Constantinople to rob the Turks of their fleet; and the only expedition which he ever accomplished, was sending a fleet down the Channel to steal the ships at Lisbon. Frequent motions had also given him an opportunity of going into all the stages of the last war, and of evincing what he had so often done, a disposition of differing and disagreeing with his friends.

Lord TEMPLE was sorry that the question had been

brought forward at all, and still more at the manner in which it was discussed. However important the lesson of consistency was, which they had received, he was sorry that such reflections should be mixed with the original motion, because he would be sorry that Spain should see her important cause made the vehicle of recrimination. He hoped Spain would look to England, and look to her with effect.

Mr. SHERIDAN said he would wave his right to reply, because there was nothing for him to reply to. As he only wished, by his motion, to give Ministers an opportunity hereafter of coming down to the House, and saying that they would support the enthusiasm of Spain, he had no objection now to withdraw it. He thought, however, there would be no harm in Ministers giving him the information he required. He wished to direct the eye of the country to a Proclamation of Bonaparte to the Prince of Asturias, in which he told him that a people, governed by a Monarch, were ever discontented and anxious to avenge the homage which they had paid him; this idea, he thought, should be published, as tending to unmask the principles of the tyrant.

After a few words from Mr. CANNING, the motion was withdrawn.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The following sums were voted to his Majesty:—To meet any public exigency in England, 2,200,000l.—For the same purpose in Ireland, 500,000l.—For the Board of First Fruits in Ireland, 10,000l.—For defraying the Treasury Charges, 6,000l.—For relief of Dissenting Ministers and French Refugees, 9,000l.

On the motion that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of Supply, Mr. BANKES moved, "That the amount of all exemptions on funded property granted to Foreigners be referred to said Committee."

Sir T. TURTON was of opinion, that as every poor man who received a dividend even of 20s. was taxed, so foreigners should not be exempted.

Mr. Smith, Lord H. Petty, and Mr. D. Giddy opposed the measure.

Mr. BANKES declared that the funded property ought to be held sacred, and he never would propose his measure if it went to its violation. He considered that there was no reason for this exemption, and that it was supported merely by prejudice. He could see no reason whatever for the preference given to foreigners over the natives of this country.

Mr. WINDHAM thought it would be bad policy to lay on this tax, as the country would not gain as much by the tax as it would lose by foreigners withdrawing their money in consequence of it. Neither could he see that it would be just, as the tax on income was in a manner a commutation for taxes on consumption, which foreigners never did pay.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER felt much embarrassment in considering the subject. It did not appear to him that there would be any injustice in taking away the exemption, but he doubted much the policy of doing so. He believed this exemption arose from delicacy and apprehension that the credit of the funds might be shaken, if there were any tax upon funds. If the question was a new one, he should think there was no injustice in laying on the same tax on the funded property of foreigners as well as natives; he was afraid, however, that such a measure now would be considered on the Continent as a symptom of failing finances.

The motion was negatived.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means; a vote of credit was passed for six millions sterling for the service of Great Britain, and 500,000l. for Ireland for the present year.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16.

Trade, the Promissory Notes Restraint (England), and the Hackney Coach Regulation Bills, were read a third time and passed.

Mr. VILLIERS obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the farther encouragement of Learning in the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland, and in Public Libraries, by means of copies of all new books published, securing to the author the copy-right for 28 years.

Mr. WHITBREAD seeing an Hon. Gentleman in his place, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, wished to learn from him, as the Session was rapidly advancing to a close, whether or not the House was to be favoured with any report from the Committee before the termination of the Session. The Committee had sat a long time, and the House had seen nothing of its labours.

Mr. BANKES said he hardly knew how to answer the Hon. Gentleman's question. It certainly, he granted, seemed surprising, that the Finance Committee had made no report lately; but for that he was not to blame. One report had been made up and might have been presented months since, but, unfortunately, after it had been drawn up, a disagreement took place as to its recommendations, which had not been adjusted. So far as that report depended on him (Mr. Bankes) he was prepared to lay it on the table to-morrow.

Mr. WHITBREAD thanked the Hon. Gentleman for the information he had been pleased to communicate, as it was highly important to the country.

Mr. M. FITZGERALD rose for the purpose of calling the attention of the House to the Petitions recently presented by him and his Hon. Friend (Mr. Parnell) from certain Counties in Ireland, praying for a Commutation of Tythes. He thought the House bound to entertain the subject; but as he was afraid he had prejudices to encounter, the nature of which he could not pretend to anticipate, he should defer any debate upon these Petitions, and merely move, that they be referred to the consideration of a Committee.

Mr. PERCEVAL expressed himself in favour of the mode proposed by the Hon. Gentleman, of introducing this subject to the notice of the House. He could assure that Hon. Gentleman that the matter had for a length of time engaged his attention, and that he trusted by the time the discussion might come on that things might be in such a state as to prevent any bar to granting the object of these petitions.

Mr. SHERIDAN said, that he felt gratified by the candid manner in which the Right Hon. Gentleman had delivered himself upon this truly important subject. It was one of those pledges for the Union, given by the late Mr. Pitt, and, were it carried, would be the only one out of many that had been realized. He wished the measure every success under the auspices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, he thought had expressed himself with a degree of sincerity unquestionable. He had intended to have submitted a motion on the state of Ireland, but he had been dissuaded from it by his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Ponsonby), and he had given up all idea of that motion for the present Session.

The motion of Mr. Fitzgerald was then put and carried.

The Pilots' Bill, with amendments, was read a third time and passed.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee on the Stamp Duty Bill. On the clause extending an additional duty on Country Bank-notes re-issuable, the Committee divided—For the original clause 59—Against it, 16.

A clause was added, imposing a duty of 20l. a year on the Royal Bank and on the Old Bank of Scotland, for issuing and circulating notes of one guinea and one pound value.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17.

The Land Tax Commissioners Bill, the Hackney Coach Regulation Bill, the Prize Captures Bill, the Prize

Goods Warehousiug Bill, and the Post Horse Farming Duties Bill, were read a third time and passed.

In a Committee of Supply 35,000l. were voted towards the erection of the Royal Naval Asylum—200,000l. towards building a new Military College in Surrey—and 36,000l. to Gen. Martin, for losses sustained by him in Virginia, as representative of the late Lord Fairfax. In a Committee of Ways and Means, a duty of 8s. 2½d. was laid on every gallon of spirits made in Ireland and imported into Great Britain, and a duty of 5s. per gallon on all spirits exported from Scotland to Ireland.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Sir T. TURTON renewed his former motion on the eighth Resolution respecting the Carnatic question, and wished that a Committee should be appointed to inquire into the merits of the facts set forth in that resolution as to the assumption of the East India Company regarding the Carnatic. On the Speaker putting the question, the Gallery was cleared, when the House divided—For the resolution 11—Against it 34.

On our return we found Sir S. ROMILLY on his legs, declaiming against the injustice of the British Governors towards the injured Princes in India; he complained of the thinness of the House (only eight Members more than the number which constituted a House).

Lord CASTLEREAGH contended, that after the House had decided on the merits of the question, there could be no doubt on the issue of the present resolution; but, independent of that, he had no hesitation in vindicating the conduct of the Noble Marquis, which had been traduced without the least colour of foundation in political truth.

Mr. Sheridan, Dr. Lawrence, and Mr. Windham, supported the last resolution, and, after a reply from Sir T. Turton, the House divided—For the resolution 19—Against it 97.

During our exclusion Mr. WALLACE proposed a Resolution, approving of the whole conduct of the Noble Marquis in India; when Sir T. Turton proposed an amendment, on which a second division took place—For the amendment 19—Against it 98.

A third division took place on the resolution of Mr. Wallace—Ayes 98—Noes 19.—Adjourned.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Thursday, as some labourers were quarrying limestone, near Carlingford, one of them observing a projecting bank of sand giving way, gave the alarm and fled. One of his compaxions, however, in the act of retreating with a crow-bar in his hands, was covered with a depth of eight or ten feet of sand and gravel. A number of people immediately set too and dug him out, still alive and sensible, though nearly 20 minutes thus buried; and found the bar had completely transfixed him, entering under the right breast, and coming out at his back. After remaining in the greatest agony, though still sensible, for six hours, he expired, leaving a wife and eight children.

On Sunday morning, an affray took place between some bricklayer's labourers, and three soldiers at Chatham. The parties had been gambling and drinking together at the George public-house all the preceding night, and when they left the house a quarrel commencing, the soldiers parted from the labourers, and they began pelting each other with stones. The soldiers at last retreated from their adversaries, who then began hooting at, and calling them names, which so much irritated one of the soldiers, named Philip Archer, that he went back, and meeting with one Wm. Chessan, a violent scuffle ensued; the soldier received some severe blows with a stick, upon his head, and he stabbed Chessan so violently in the breast with his bayonet, that it passed through the sternum, and wounded the lungs in so dreadful a manner, that the unfortunate man expired almost instantly. The soldiers were immediately secured. On Monday they were examined, when P. Archer, being the only one against whom any thing appeared, the others were discharged, and he was committed to Maidstone Gaol, to take his trial at the next assizes.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

G. Price, Tottenham-Court-road, liquor-merchant, June 21, 28, July 26, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Naylor, Great Newport-street.

R. Postles, Long-lane, Smithfield, victualler, June 18, 25, at one, July 26, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Ireland, Staple's Inn.

T. Winterbourn, Aldersgate-street, cabinet-maker, June 18, 25, at one, July 26, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Kibblewhite, and Co. Gray's Inn.

M. Moses, Rosemary-lane, salesman, June 18, 25, at one, July 26, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Isaacs, Mitre-court, Aldgate.

C. Hinse, Little Castle-street, taylor, June 21, 28, July 26, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Freame, Great Queen-street.

J. Delaney, Liverpool, draper, July 5, 6, 26, at twelve, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Davies, Liverpool.

J. Nelson, Leeds, woolstapler, June 28, 29, July 26, at eleven, at the Three Legs Inn, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Coupland, Leeds.

I. Robinson, Whitehaven, mercer, June 27, 28, July 26, at eleven, at the Golden Lion, Whitehaven. Attorney, Mr. Hodges, Whitehaven.

DIVIDENDS.

July 9. E. Lowten, Red Lion-square, Southwark, hop-merchant.—July 5. N. Rust, Rotherfield Peppard, Oxfordshire, miller.—Sept. 17. R. Atkinson and H. Watters, Fenchurch-street, wine-merchants.—July 9. J. Collingdon, Plough-court, Lombard-street, merchant.—July 9. J. Yates, Warnford-court, merchant.—July 5. J. Boyes, Portsmouth, mercer.—July 7. W. Hoard, Lower East Smithfield, victualler.—July 16. R. Prested, Brick-lane, shoe-maker.—June 18. J. L. Willimott, Stamford, linen-draper.—July 12. J. Payne, Lynn, cabinet-maker.—July 5. R. Lewis and D. Potter, Mansion-House-street, linen-drapers.—July 5. G. Lambert, Holborn, victualler.—Oct. 22. J. Dean, Watling-street, wholesale linen-draper.—July 7. W. Monk, Parbold, Lancashire, lime-burner.—July 7. R. Fegg, Manchester, cotton-manufacturer.—July 14. W. W. Watson, jun. Basford, Nottinghamshire, joiner.—July 14. G. Ragg, Nottingham, hosier.—July 6. E. Head, Trowbridge, innkeeper.

CERTIFICATES—JULY 5.

W. and J. Welch, Brook-street, Holborn, boot-makers.—J. Harvey, Springfield, Essex, bricklayer.—G. Herron, Bermondsey, fellmonger.—S. B. East, Old Jewry, factor.—C. L. Lund, Old Jewry, factor.—G. Cunnington, Webber-street, baker.—F. Fenton, Sheffield, merchant.—J. Pettigrew, Liverpool, master-mariner.—T. Nightingale, Dewsbury, mercer.—T. Russell, Pershore, Worcestershire, collar-maker.—C. Morton, Croydon, horse-dealer,

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a Proclamation, revoking the former Proclamations relating to the Distribution of Prizes, and appointing a new distribution thereof.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

R. Gresswell, Stamford, innkeeper, from June 25, to July 25, at the George, Stamford-Baron.

W. Williams, Park-street, Islington, builder, from June 14, to August 2, at ten at Guildhall.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Houghton, Liverpool, merchant, to surrender July 8, 9, 30, at one, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attornies, Messrs. Stannistreet and Eden, Liverpool.

E. and H. Beaton, Portsmouth, butchers, June 28, at two, 29, at twelve, July 30, at two, at the Blue Posts, Portsmouth. Attorney, Mr. Callaway, Portsmouth.

W. Roderick, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, dealer, June 29, 30, July 30, at eleven, at the George, Llandiwafwr. Attornies, Messrs. Price and Son, Tally and Llandilo.

S. Harsnett, Manchester, leatherseller, July 13, 14, 30, at two, at the Bridgewater Arms, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Hewitt, Manchester.

T. Dunn, Bristol, salesman, June 27, 28, July 30, at eleven, at the Bush Inn, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. Strickland, Bristol.

C. Naimby, Great Grimsby, Lincoln, tallow-chandler, June 28, 29, July 30, at eleven, at the Dog and Duck Tavern, Kingston-upon-Hull. Attorney, Mr. Lloyd, Kingston-upon-Hull.

P. Jones, Norfolk-row, Lambeth, hawker, June 25, 28, July 30, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Keene, Furnival's-Inn.

P. Keniseck, Bristol, merchant, June 20, July 4, 30, at eleven, at the Rummer Tavern, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. Smith, Bristol.

T. Haynes, Gloucester, pin-manufacturer, June 27, 28, July 30, at ten, at the King's Head Inn, Gloucester. Attornies, Messrs. Wilton, Gloucester.

P. Rackstraw, Tottenham-court-road, cabinet maker and upholsterer, June 25, 28, July 30, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Griffith, No. 16, Featherstone-buildings, Holborn.

DIVIDENDS.

July 9. R. Slaymaker, Fore-street, Spitalfields, tallow-chandler.—July 15. J. Farrington, Bickerton, Chester, cheese-factor.—July 9. J. Grainger, Old Swan-lane, broker.—July 15. S. and E. Statham, and H. Garton, Nottingham, hosiers.—July 15. J. Gaskill, Nottingham, broker.—July 9. R. Cann, Frith-street, Soho, painter.—July 9. M. Agar, Austin-Friars, ship-owner.—June 25. G. Hall, Bow-street, liquor-merchant.—July 9. P. Martinant, St. James's-street, warehouseman.—July 16. J. Rudhall, Wm. Hobson, Birmingham, linen-drapers.—July 23. J. H. Kluge, Paul's Chain, Doctor's Commons, furrier.—July 9. Howard Spicer, Walden, Essex, maltster.—July 19. John Bowden, Glossop, Derbyshire, cotton-manufacturer.—July 9. E. Kent, White Lion-street, Goodman's Fields, furnishing ironmonger.—July 12. G. Harrison, Globe-street, Wapping, carpenter.—June 25. J. Denison, W. A. Phelps, and G. Williams, Friday-street, Cheapside, warehousemen.—July 23. E. Whitehead, New Road, Tottenham Court, merchant.—July 26. E. Moon, Hammersmith, builder.—July 9. E. Kendal, Tabernacle-Walk, Finsbury-Square, tallow-chandler.—July 12. W. Rose, Earl's-Court, Kensington, brewer.—July 9. J. Makeham, Upper Thames-street, cheesemonger.

CERTIFICATES—JULY 9.

E. Warner, Jun. Little New-street, Shoe-lane, lamp-manufacturer.—T. Lockier, Upper Thames-street, merchant.—C. Waugh, Blackburn, linen-draper.—W. Wilson, jun. Yorkshire, cornfactor.—F. Glenton and J. Ness, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, chemists and druggists.—R. Core, Bristol, hat-manufacturer.—J. Beach, Birmingham, button-maker.—J. Cross, Liverpool, Milliner.—G. Duffield, York-buildings, Bermondsey New Road, Wool-Carder.—J. Gray, East Smithfield, baker.—W. Chester, Chesterfield, mercer.

NEWSPAPER PUFFING.

There is a species of quackery at present adopted by the Proprietors of several Weekly Papers,—a practice so despicable in its principle and unworthy in its object, that it has become proper to guard the Public against the intended imposition. The practice alluded to is that of posting up about the town and advertizing the most impudent falsehoods respecting the number of Papers sold by these persons. Their object is two-fold:—1st, To induce those who advertize to send their advertizements to them; and 2dly, To convince the Public that their Papers must be super-excellent, since the circulation is so widely extended.

If the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER had believed the statements of these men, he should at once have increased the duty on Newspapers, for never was property so productive.—One set of Proprietors inform you that they print "8000 weekly," though their Paper does not reach half that number;—another unblushingly asserts, that although his Journal is but a few weeks old (sweet innocent) it sells "full 4000," though at the same time it scarcely prints as many hundreds. The writer in this Paper asserts, with all the impudence and cant of an empyric, that his is the *only loyal* weekly paper printed. If the assertion were true, the readers of weekly papers, that is, many of the upper and all the middling class of the community except his 400 subscribers, must be a *disloyal* rabble, or at least persons of the most shallow judgment. This may be considered as a specimen of the writer's peculiar modesty.—But other arts are also practised. A Paper of Sunday se'nnight, which from its age and its circulation one should have thought would have shunned such wretched examples, made use of the following expedient to excite a temporary notice:—It circulated an Advertizement, announcing that an Article which appeared in the last week's Paper had excited such general attention, that "*at the request of SEVERAL SOCIETIES OF MERCHANTS IN THE CITY, who have ordered ONE THOUSAND Copies extraordinary for the purpose of being circulated by them in every direction,*" it would be re-printed in their next publication.—The article was re-printed: after a long common-place against France, in which the writer talked of the cruel fate of the Spanish Princes, he concludes with the following rhapsody:—

"*War then—war with such a Power!—ETERNAL, INEXTINGUISHABLE WAR, before we submit to the contempt and danger of her hollow friendship.—WAR then with France, though Commerce and Colonies should both fail us in the struggle; enough, if upon the ruin of this accumulated wreck, we can climb to the level of our towering enemy, and save the* Capitoli Immobile Saxum *of the British Constitution.*"

Nothing certainly can be more ludicrous: but the Paper should really have mentioned who these *Societies of Merchants* were, who wish for *eternal war* and the destruction of *commerce*. There are undoubtedly the East and West India Companies of Merchants, the South Sea and the Levant Companies; but though their meetings are public, yet no resolution has been carried for the purchase of *One Thousand Copies* of a Weekly Paper, for the purpose of exciting a desire for an "*eternal, inextinguishable war.*"—It is really somewhat hard upon these *Societies of Merchants* to be thus held up as the patrons of declamation, and the circulators of nonsense.

After all, these dealers in fiction, these *thousand and one* story tellers, may as well keep their money in their pockets. The public are never long deceived:—they may be cheated for a while; but the imposition is soon discovered, and the impostors held in merited contempt.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON FRIDAY.

Consols for Open.....70¼ | Reduced Ann. 68⅞

The ESSAYS on METHODISM will be resumed in a week or two.

SCARE-CROW was never for a moment misunderstood: his Communications are very acceptable.

MOHAMMED'S PARADISE in our next.

An ENGLISHMAN'S LETTER to the Duke of SUSSEX, in our next.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON:
SUNDAY, JUNE 19.

ANOTHER week has elapsed without the satisfaction of seeing the Cadiz squadrons triumphantly brought up the Thames by the River Fencibles. Though the town has resounded with reports spread by Stock-jobbers and Editors of Papers, of Spanish opposition to French invasion, and with their exultations at the efforts of the patriots to recover their *lost liberty*, our less sanguine ideas on this head are justified by the non-arrival of any authentic account of Spanish opposition or French disaster. Indeed the reverse is the case. By dispatches received at the Admiralty on Friday, our Admiral had been unsuccessful in his negociations with the Commander of Cadiz, and the combined squadrons remained in the inner harbour. The wisely cautious but unsatisfactory reply of Mr. CANNING to Mr. SHERIDAN'S motion respecting Spain, shews what little hope the Ministry have of any effectual opposition to the French in that kingdom, notwithstanding the arms and the troops that are making ready to embark. They are anxious to avoid the imputation of not being active to co-operate against the enemy, if that co-operation is *really* called for.—They must preserve their character for vigour.

The House of Commons, which has for a series of years past rung with execrations of the unjust conduct of NAPOLEON to Foreign Princes, has voted that "the Marquis WELLESLEY, in his conduct towards the Nabob of the CARNATIC, has been actuated solely by a regard to the interest of the British Empire. Why did it not also vote that it was just and humane, for the Marquis was charged with the very crimes that NAPOLEON has committed on the Spanish Monarchy—of cruelty and usurpation. No doubt the French Legislature would vote that their Emperor's conduct to Spain "was actuated solely by a regard to the interest" of the French Empire. Yes, those slaves would also venture to vote that it was just and humane!

The late Parliamentary grant of 20,000l. to the Princes of the House of BOURBON is much talked of out of the House, though not a word was uttered in Parliament on the subject. It certainly is a delicate one. No liberal man will for a moment hesitate to assist the unfortunate, even though the objects are far, very far indeed, from being entitled to commendation. It must be confessed that one great cause of the French Revolution was the *corruption* and imbecility of the BOURBON Government. But the Count DE LILLE and his family have sought an asylum in England: it therefore becomes Englishmen to afford them that aid, without which, it seems, they would be in danger of perishing. All that can be said on this subject is, that as the people are bent to the earth by an accumulation of taxes, it would have thrown a lustre on the character of his MAJESTY had he prevented the application to Parliament by administering to the wants of the unfortunate exiles out of *his own private purse*. Is there no man at Court wise and politic enough to have given his Sovereign this advice? or has it been given and rejected?—These constant appeals to the people for money on *such* occasions are extremely improper, and must be lamented by every lover of the Constitution: they afford every democratic bawler an opportunity to inveigh against the institutions of the country; they lessen the respect due to the throne, and thereby endanger the happiness of the people.

Private letters have been received from the Dutch coast, of the date of June 12, which state, that ten thousand French troops have actually entered Cadiz, and taken possession of all the forts, as also of the Spanish fleet. According to other accounts, Admiral PURVIS demanded, in his first communication, the surrender of the fleet. With this the Governor of the town is said to have refused compliance: and proceeded to threaten the English in return, and to caution them to look to their own safety, assuring them that every port in Spain would shortly be protected by a French force, and that an immense body of troops were now on their march to attack Gibraltar, insinuating, that this was the chief or only cause of the entrance of BONAPARTE'S armies into the Spanish territories. A British 74 is said to have been roughly handled during its too near approach to the forts of Cadiz.

It is reported that BONAPARTE has prevailed upon the Queen of SPAIN to testify her own dishonour, and sign a declaration that the Prince of ASTURIAS was not the offspring of her husband CHARLES IV. There is something like a threat of this nature held out in the letter of the Emperor of the FRENCH to the PRINCE. In dissuading him from pursuing any vindictive measures against the Prince of the PEACE, he makes the following observations:—"How can the Prince of the PEACE be brought to trial, without involving in it the QUEEN, and the KING your Father? Such a process would foster hatred and factious passions, the issue of which would be fatal to your Crown. *Your Royal Highness has no other right thereto, than that which you derive from your mother.* If this process degrade her, your Royal Highness destroys your own right." Now this degradation, it seems, BONAPARTE has had the address to persuade this weak and wicked woman to inflict upon herself; and, according to his argument, the right of the PRINCE to the throne is destroyed, without the formality of a legal process.

The arrival of the dispatches from Admiral PURVIS and General SPENCER, gave rise to a number of reports:—it was said that the British troops had landed at Cadiz, and occupied the forts, and that the French fleet had been taken possession of, &c. On the other hand, it was confidently said, that General SPENCER had made an attempt to land, but that he had been repulsed with considerable loss. It is hardly necessary to add, that there was not any foundation for either of these reports.

Government (says the *Courier* of last night) has taken steps to send ammunition to the Spanish patriots. All the frigates that were in Plymouth have sailed for the Spanish coast, with directions, we are informed, to land ammunition.—Other ships will follow them immediately.—Sir A. WELLESLEY's expedition will sail without loss of time.—Two detachments of the Royal Artillery and of Artillery Drivers embarked the day before yesterday—they are to form part of the expedition.—Sir THOMAS DYER is gone to one of the Spanish ports upon a particular mission.

A third Spanish Gentleman has arrived; he came out of Corunna in an open boat, and went on board the Statira frigate. He entreated the Commander to supply the patriots with 300 barrels of gunpowder, of which they were in great want. Arms they had plenty. The Captain of the Statira could not comply with this request without orders; but he immediately carried the Spanish Deputy to Admiral GAMBIER, who did not think proper to act without the instructions of Government, and sent the Officer forward in the Statira, to prefer his application in London.—This Gentleman, we understand, says that no insurrection has taken place in Ferrol; but that if any attempt should be made by the French to make themselves masters of the place, the inhabitants would rise to a man against them.

Government have issued orders for the release of all the Spanish prisoners belonging to the province of Asturias.

The American Congress have adjourned to the 1st Monday in November, leaving to the President, by an Act passed for that purpose, a discretionary power to continue or suspend the embargo, as circumstances might require.—A Bill authorizing the President to suspend the operation of the Non-Importation Act also passed the Senate, but was rejected in the House of Representatives, where, after a violent debate, a motion for postponing the further consideration of it *sine die* was carried. All the ships of war belonging to the United States are to be equipped, "to be used as in the opinion of the President, the circumstances of the country, and the conduct of Foreign Powers, may require."

There is no news from the North.

A body of 3000 French troops is said to have got into Zealand. Rensburgh, in Holstein, has a camp of about 10,000 Danish troops.

The approaching recess of Parliament will, it is reported, be much shorter than usual. Both Houses, it is supposed, will be called together again in October.

The Debates in this day's Paper will be found interesting, particularly those respecting Spain, which are given at length.

Last Friday, above 1000 persons visited Lord GROSVENOR's grand collection of Pictures.

Count MATEROZZA and Don DIEGO DE LA VEGA have been both in the profession of the law in Asturias.

A Morning Paper says—Another elopement has taken place in high life.—A noble Viscount, Lord S——, has gone off with a lady, Mrs. P——, whose husband is a relation of the Marquis of W——. It is not known to what place the fugitives have withdrawn.

The present season promises to be the greatest for fruit ever remembered in this kingdom. As the fruit trees did not blossom till the spring was nearly over, no frost or nipping blasts followed to destroy them in the bud. This is certainly but a secondary object in our vegetation, but we may likewise anticipate a plentiful summer and an abundant harvest.

A few days since, a woman in Handbridge, in Cheshire, (it being the anniversary of erecting the May-poles), was so imprudent as to dance round them with an infant pinned up in her apron; the groans of the little innocent were distinctly heard, but no attention was paid to them by the inhuman mother; and we are sorry to add, that on opening her apron after the dance was over, it was found with its face downwards, quite lifeless.

FIVE PLAGUES OF A VILLAGE.—A Lawyer with great knowledge and no justice:—A Physician with little skill:—A Methodist Preacher:—A Democratic Politician:—and a dogmatic Man of Letters!

An alehouse-keeper in the country has put up for a sign a *scrag of mutton*, under which he writes, "the original *Boney part*."

An old Soldier having lost *both his arms* in battle, his commanding Officer proposed to reward his bravery with a crown piece. "You certainly think, Colonel," said the indignant veteran, "that I have only lost my *gloves!*"

A *German* dramatic author has published a new play entitled "*The Benevolent Cut-throat*," in which he has a most felicitous idea, that of the *Moon fainting away*. This is certainly an improvement on SHAKSPEARE (who, by the bye, must be allowed to have had a pretty knack at writing), for he only makes the moon sleep.

EPITAPH.

The wedding day appointed was,
And wedded clothes provided;
Before the nuptial day, alas!
He sicken'd and he *die did*.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 23.

Opening of the Haymarket Theatre—One hint to that Theatre, and another to theatrical financiers.—Mr. Lewis's Castle Spectre censured.—Mr. Young.—Mrs. Bellamy's first appearance.—Mr. Treby.—and Mr. John Palmer.

HAYMARKET.

This theatre opened for the season on Wednesday evening, with very little spirit. Few dramatic pieces seem congenial to this place, but farces and such comedies as are expressly written for it by Mr. COLMAN;

and it ought to be content with these and a little music; and be the *Theatre de Vaudeville* of London. Instead of this, the house opened with Mr. Lewis's horrible tragedy of the *Castle Spectre*, and announced *Hamlet* for the second night. It may be true, that when these were performed by the Haymarket company, farces were exhibited; but during the time the *Castle Spectre* was being burlesqued, two regular farces and a half might have been played; and thus the audience hear only two farces instead of three and a half per night, for their money. I leave it to theatrical financiers to calculate how great a quantity of laugh is thus actually filched from their cheeks in the course of the season, supposing every man to visit the theatre three times, which is, I think, quite as much as he will be able to endure. The question will then be, if six farces, half of them of tragedy, produce seventy-three laughs and three quarters, how many laughs will seven farces and a half, all of pure farce, produce? The phrase *farce of tragedy*, may seem new to those who have never visited a player's barn, or the Haymarket theatre; and I wish the latter society would indulge the public with an essay on that subject; for, without a compliment, I know no body of men who are such thorough masters of it.

The *Castle Spectre* is a play of the very worst taste. It was brought out some twelve or fourteen years ago, during the rage for spectred romance, to which the exquisite novels of Mrs. Radcliffe had the misfortune to lead the way. To the credit of the present century, I think the play would now, as a new production, be hooted from the stage: our circulating libraries have now sickened us of haunted castles, ghosts, if male, in armour, and if female, in white robes, spring pannels, moveable pictures, subterraneous passages, supernatural music, foul dungeons, charnel houses, and all the other heir-looms of horrid romance. We are now on our guard to laugh at every thing that is meant to frighten us; and it was, perhaps, this circumstance, as much as the clumsiness both of the talking machinery, or actors, and the silent, or properties, that rendered the performance of Wednesday evening so ludicrously ineffective. I except, however, from this censure, the performances of Mr. Young, the *Osmond* of the evening, and of Mrs. Bellamy, the wife of the singer, who made her first appearance on this stage as the *Angela*. *Percy*, whom I recollect at the first production of the play to have seen personated by John Kemble, was played on Wednesday by a Mr. Treby, a glee-singer, from Drury-lane theatre; and *Hassan*, the slave who is made so much of by Mr. Dowton at Drury-lane, was performed by my old acquaintance in wretchedness, Mr. John Palmer, who, it is quite necessary to assure the public, *is* the son of the late celebrated John Palmer, one of the first *gentlemen* on the stage.—These performances it is useless to criticise: Mr. Palmer is quite as unfit for the stage as ever; and I beg to assure Mr. Treby, that, though he can take the upper part in a glee, it does not of necessity follow that he can take the upper part in a tragedy.

It is really a pity for this house that Mr. Young is so good a tragedian; not only is it induced, from this reason, to attempt plays it can never support, but it neglects those within compass. Mr. Young played *Osmond* with much talent, and he plays *Hamlet* with more; but the rest of the performers in the plays, to which these characters belong, are mere ciphers, and would be worth nothing at all did not he make a figure at the head of them. Of Mrs. Bellamy I have not yet seen enough to write an essay upon her theatrical talents: as far, however, as I can judge from her performance of *Angela*, I should say that though her face did not come under the description of *pretty*, yet that would be the very word with which I should at present characterize her acting.

B. F.

FINE ARTS.

THE POLISH KNIGHT AND THE EXAMINER.

Sir Francis Burgeois has written a very elegant epistle, in which he charges the *Examiner* with "IGNORANCE AND INSOLENCE," for its remarks on the paintings he exhibited in the late Exhibition.—Self-knowledge is of all wisdom the rarest; and it is an every-day remark, that you frequently find a man imagining he discerns those qualities in others *for which he himself is notoriously conspicuous*.—We will not allow Sir Francis to be an impartial judge on this occasion. We appeal from his modest decision to the judgment of those distinguished Amateurs and able Artists who honour this Paper with their perusal.—As his Majesty knighted Sir Wm. Beechey for his talents in portrait-painting, he has been erroneously thought to have conferred that title upon Sir Francis: we therefore deemed it proper to state, in humble vindication of the Royal taste, that it was the dethroned King of Poland who made him a knight. We have now to add, that this *honour* was obtained at the particular request of the late Mr. Desenfans, his Polish Majesty's agent, who was also a picture-dealer, a teacher of languages, and Sir Francis's most gracious patron.—Sir Francis desires that we in future desist from mentioning his name in the *Examiner*. To this wish we will most chearfully accede, if Sir Francis will also desist from painting bad pictures and then publicly exhibiting them. Sir Francis should know the wide difference between picture-making and picture-*cleaning*. In the latter useful art, we shall ever be ready to allow him some merit, which is really a proof that we have no slight respect for Sir Francis's talents.—We will give the worthy knight a piece of advice: if he wishes his pictures to escape censure, he must keep them from being seen.

The following are the articles which have occasioned us the honour of Sir Francis's notice:—

104. *A Halt of Roman Soldiery. Sir F. Bourgeois, R. A.*—A spiritless imitation of Salvator Rosa.

65. *A Shepherd and Flock. Sir F. Bourgeois, R. A.* Many persons have supposed that this gentleman, being an R. A. and seeing his pictures hang in the best places in the Academy, was knighted by the King, especially as they discover, as in this piece, such a rich *profusion* of object in his paintings, such a *variety* and *harmony* of *colour*, such *anatomical science*, such *depth* of effect, *grandeur* of conception, and *solidity* of style. We will set them right on this head. It was the late unfortunate King of Poland who made him a *simple* knight: we regret we cannot inform our readers who it was that attempted to make him a painter.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

Mr. *Thomson's Trap-ball Portrait of a young Gentleman*, is a *playful* as well as *striking* portrait. His

Love's Ingratitude has some warmth of fancy as well as colouring. There is an archslyness in the little urchin, who is stealing an arrow from behind to wound ungratefully the breast of his benefactress. There is also a brilliancy and breadth of effect, and the flesh possesses fine silvery and carnation hues; but the head is rather small for her length, and there is an unmeaning frippery, an insubstantiality in the folds of the drapery. We are divided which to say, "Bravo, Mr. Thomson, or, "O, Harry Thomson, Harry Thomson, O."

Mr. ARNALD's picture of a *Mountain Road in Westmoreland*, is a highly pleasing display of rich foliage, varied hues, and aerial perspective.

The Exhibition closed yesterday. The few History pieces it contained displayed much talent. The PRESIDENT, whose knowledge of the human frame and of the passions as they relate to dignified art, places him on an eminence with the great masters of Italy, rivalled, in his *Harmony of Affection*, the Prince of Italian colourists, the great TITIAN himself. WESTALL exhibited energy of historical expression, feminine and infantine beauty. FUSELI was genius run mad. There was much youthful promise in HILTON and LANE. Fancy subjects, which hold a middle rank between History and Portraits, were excellent, as were a few Landscapes and many Portraits; and the genius of WILKIE, or in other words, his scrutinizing observation of form, and perfect delineation of the heart in familiar life, was the admiration of all.

After a very successful season the two Exhibitions of Water Colour Drawings closed last week. Among capital Landscapes, and some fine cattle pieces by HILLS, HEAPHY was conspicuous for his subjects of low character. In fine, these Exhibitions, together with the British Institution, shew that

"Britain binds her laurell'd brows once more,
"And adds the only wreath unwon before."

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Wednesday, June 15.

BARRETT *v.* LEADBEATER.

Mr. PARKE, Counsel for the plaintiff, stated that this was an aggravated assault committed by the defendant, a City Constable, on his client, who keeps the Rose and Crown public-house, at Queenhithe. On the 16th of April the defendant went into the above house, followed by a Lieutenant of the Navy, and a host of followers, commonly termed a press-gang. Seeing a poor labourer sitting in a box he went up to him, and without any ceremony lifted his hat off his head, and asked who he was? on the labourer answering satisfactorily, he accosted the plaintiff's brother, who had been a waiter in the house for ten years, and insisted on taking him away. The plaintiff interfered, put his brother in the bar, and said he should not go out of the house, for he was not liable to be impressed, having never been at sea. On this defendant dragged the plaintiff out of the house, and swore he would take him to the Compter. At the outside of the door the plaintiff, who had behaved with great prudence, told the defendant that he had a considerable sum of money about him, and if taken to the Compter he might lose it, therefore he requested leave to give what he had to his wife, but in attempting to put his hand in his pocket for that purpose, the defendant struck him with his mace over the knuckles several times severely, and otherwise cruelly used him.—On being taken to the Compter the defendant did not choose to retain him, and he was allowed to return home; but the brother had been taken away, and next day he was discharged by the Lord Mayor. His Lordship being informed that an action would be commenced against the defendant, he gave orders for defending him. The whole statement was fully substantiated by respectable evidence, and after a most excellent charge from Lord Ellenborough, the Jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff.—Damages 30*l.* costs 40*l.*—The defendant did not call any witness.

Thursday, June 16.

THE KING *v.* J. H. HART AND H. WHITE.

This was an information against the defendants, for publishing a libel upon Lord Ellenborough, in a weekly paper, called *The Independent Whig*: but Mr. Justice GROSE, previous to the Jury being sworn, informed Mr. Clifford, of Counsel for the Defendants, that application had that morning been made to him, at Chambers, to amend the record; that the required alterations had been made, and that, if he wished, he might have time to consider of the amended record. Mr. CLIFFORD, after some altercation, said he would take time to consider the amended record: and was allowed till Monday next, either to plead Not Guilty, or to suffer judgment to go by default. In the former event, the trial to take place on Saturday se'nnight.

THE KING *v.* J. H. HART AND H. WHITE.

This was also an information, filed by the Attorney General against the defendants, the former as the printer and publisher, and the latter as the sole proprietor of a newspaper, called *The Independent Whig*, for inserting three several libels, with intent to arraign the administration of justice in the country, and to bring the Trial by Jury into disgrace and contempt. The defendants were also charged with an intent to overthrow the government of the country by the aforesaid means. To these allegations they had pleaded not guilty.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL made a very able speech to the Jury. He began by saying, that he had felt it to be his duty to prosecute the defendants, assured that their intent was what the information had charged upon them, namely, to vilify the administration of justice, and to bring the trial by jury into disgrace and contempt. The means of doing it were, by libelling the conduct of the Judge and Jury, and by questioning the purity of their decisions. Could that end be effected, he said, the consequences were obvious; for if the public were once brought to believe the laws of the land were corruptly administered, those laws would soon be brought into abhorrence and disrepute, and the government of the country endangered. That such was the intention of the defendants, he should repeat, he had no doubt; but he was at a loss to know what the writers of the libels in question would substitute in their stead. The Learned Judge too (Sir Simon Le Blanc) whom the libellers had attacked, was one of the last persons to be suspected of corruption in his high office; he was, on the contrary, most diligent, discrete, and attentive to extract the truth from witnesses, and eagerly desirous to have all cases that came before him fully and fairly investigated on both sides. The Learned Counsel then went into a short history of facts proved on the trials of Bennett, for the supposed murder of a boy named Rickman, and of Chapman, for the supposed murder of Robert Dunn, both of whom were acquitted. Those trials had formed the ground-work, he said, of the libels in question, and though the first was tried before the Chief Baron Macdonald, yet they were both brought into the account of Mr. Justice Le Blanc. The Jury, he said, would have disgraced themselves if they had found any other verdict than they did. They felt as honest and upright men, that they could not with safety doom a fellow-creature to death upon the evidence placed before them, and leaning to the side of mercy they acquitted him. In that conduct, the writer of the articles in question had thought proper to at-

to the most scandalous libels, and to impute motives to the Judge and Jury the most corrupt and disgraceful.—The Learned Counsel then commented more minutely upon the testimony given in Chapman's case, remarking upon the mutinous state of the crew on board the ship, the contradictions in their evidence, and the enmity and ill-will of the Doctor, who was the Captain's principal accuser; but, above all, he dwelt upon the testimony of the eminent medical men examined on the part of the prosecution, which went to prove that the deceased must have died of some latent disease, that at once stopped the functions of the heart, and not from the treatment he had previously received. He next proceeded to read the libels. He observed, that he had before seen papers of an inflammatory nature, but it was reserved for the libeller before the Court to exceed them all, and in language the most inflated and scandalous to attack the motives of a British Jury, sitting upon life and death, and to reproach them with injustice and inhumanity. He would ask, where was the country to look for Juries if they were to be thus publicly maligned and reproached? Who would be prevailed upon to do their duty, if in the fair execution of it he was to be held up as venal and corrupt by the pen of a libeller?—What security was there for the property, the lives and liberties of individuals, but the purity of our administrative justice? And what would become of that purity if Juries were to be overawed by the malice of a libeller? The object of the defendants was to terify and keep Juries in check, and by that means to become the arbiters between the accuser and the accused—to keep them under the fear of reproach, and lead them to a consideration rather of what the libeller may say of them, than of the question they are called upon to decide. That the publications he alluded to were libellous he would not take up the time of the Jury in enforcing: their good sense would immediately perceive it, and the multiplicity of libels would shew a disposition in the writer to arraign the administration of justice; he would therefore repeat what he set out with, by saying the writer's object was to bring the justice of the country into disrepute, by vilifying the individuals engaged in its administration. The means employed were, by misrepresenting the facts of the case; by giving those upon which, if they stood alone, the party ought to have been found guilty; and by suppressing others which led to the verdict of acquittal; then by holding out the Jury as the objects of universal detestation, and inferring that their motives were basely corrupt and unjust. The Learned Counsel concluded by saying, that he should prove the publications, and he had no doubt the Jury would think with him, that they were highly libellous, and that the authors ought to be punished.

The Independent Whig of the 17th and 24th of January, 1808, were then put in and read, after the same had been proved to be published by the defendants, and the libels were in substance as follow:—

The first was a letter signed *Humanitas*, inserted on the 17th of January, from a supposed correspondent, calling upon the Editor of the *Whig* to exercise his pen upon the subject of Chapman's acquittal; which the writer describes to be a murder effected by a cruel and systematic torture of a poor sick lad; and infers that the verdict proceeded upon judicial corruption. "Henceforth (says the writer) away with the foolish Erskinean boast of trial by Jury. The letter concludes by saying—"that it is reported Mr. Thomas Loveday, baker, of Aldersgate-street, has the merit of persuading his fellow jurymen to this acquittal.

The second libel was inserted the 24th of January, 1808, and contained in a letter addressed to Sir Simon Le Blanc. The letter began by calling his Lordship's attention to the trials of Bennet and Chapman, both charged with the crime of murder, and both acquitted. The writer says, the verdicts have filled the country with astonishment, and excited one universal sentiment of horror. He then proceeds as follows:—"Be not deceived, my Lord; lay not the flattering unction to your soul, that these horrible and atrocious acts will elude the enquiring gaze of public observation! No, my Lord, the laws and constitution, the principles and jurisprudence of England, have received a wound which threaten their destruction. *Magna Charta* and the Bill of Rights are almost rendered useless; the liberties, the lives and safeties of individuals have been trampled upon, and made the wanton sport of malice, and the chief blessing of our immortal Alfred, the Trial by Jury, has been perverted and destroyed." The libel proceeds—"I shall hereafter shew, by comparison of the law of evidence hitherto established, and the doctrines recently held out on the above trial, that it will be in future utterly impossible to produce proof of guilt, or procure the conviction of murderers and assassins."

The third libel was inserted also on the 24th of January, and addressed to the Jury on Chapman's Trial. It tells them the public indignation is excited at the acquittal, as the horrid acts were substantiated by the clearest concurrent testimony; and attributes their decision to "the overwhelming authority of judicial corruption."—This concluded the case on the part of the prosecution; when

Mr. ADOLPHUS addressed the Jury in defence. He began by saying, that he knew of no immunity or charter to prevent the public from animadverting on the decisions of judicial tribunals, or of reviewing the facts that lead to the conviction or the acquittal of a public criminal. Trials of great public importance had at all times been made the subject of public animadversion, and the opinions of individuals upon their results had, from the earliest periods, been published to the world. The defendants, in the present case, had done no more; they had discussed, through the medium of their newspaper, the facts and the result of the trial of a murderer; and he would insist that none of the inferences nor interests set forth in the information could be adduced from that discussion. Instead of bringing the trial by jury into contempt, they wished, if possible, to make it more pure and perfect. The writer of the letter to Sir S. Le Blanc, said the learned Counsel, calls upon his Lordship to reflect upon that inestimable blessing, the trial by jury; he wishes to preserve it pure and uncontaminated; that it should be what the immortal Alfred intended it should be, the safeguard of our lives, our liberties, and our properties, and not merely a tavern toast, or the motto to a peer's coat of arms. The writer in his address to the jurymen, he added, had only evinced an honest and temperate zeal in giving advice to them, not to be too yielding to the directions of the Judge, but to exercise their own constitutional privilege, free from prejudice or bias. In short, he had only used that right of discussion which the Constitution allowed him; and though he might have fallen into error, nothing of malice could fairly be imputed to him.

[The Learned Counsel then gave a history of the trials of Bennet and Chapman, and was putting their cases in so strong a light to the Jury, that he was called to order by the Judge, who reminded him, that the verdicts upon those men would remain for ever, and the arguments he was then adducing were calculated to impeach those verdicts, and not to benefit his clients defence.]

Mr. ADOLPHUS explained, and continued, by persisting that there was nothing in the publications to prove that the writer intended to arraign the administration of justice, or bring the trial by jury into contempt. It did appear to him that the case of Chapman was one in which a verdict of acquittal ought not to have been given; but he was far from imputing corrupt motives either to the judge or jury. The same thing had been done in the case of Steel's murderers; a pamphlet had been written, the verdict was questioned, and yet nothing had been done by the Attorney General. He should therefore repeat, that he knew of no immunity or charter by which the verdicts of juries were not to be temperately discussed and the

facts revised; and he did agree with the quotation made by the writer—

"*That mercy's murder, pardoning those who kill.*"

The Learned Counsel concluded by calling upon the Jury to take into their minds the circumstances that gave rise to the discussion, and ask themselves whether the defendants ought to be found guilty of the intentions imputed to them, because one of them, in the exercise of his right of discussion, had expressed himself with perhaps too much warmth, and some small portion of intemperance. He had no special pleader at his elbow while he was writing, and juries ought to give encouragement to fair and temperate freedom, by supporting the liberty of the press, through which, perhaps, that freedom was best effected and secured. A bad verdict furnished a bad example, and if the Jury, by their decision that day, should shut out the public from the right of discussing the verdict of a jury, they would do more harm to the administration of justice, than it was possible the remarks of the defendant could do throughout the period of his existence.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL made a very argumentative reply, when—

Mr. Justice GROSE proceeded to sum up. He said the Legislature, in cases of libel, had left the law and the fact to the decision of the Jury; that is, they were to say whether the matter charged against the defendants had been published by them, and if so, whether the publication was libellous; in short, the whole was to be left to the consideration of the Jury. The same act, however, authorizes the Judge to direct the Jury in their enquiry; and upon that authority he had no hesitation in saying, that the publication in question was a libel, and one so apparent, that he should think required very little illustration from him. But they were told that the writer had no such intentions as those ascribed to him, and that he only meant to exercise his right of discussing the grounds of that decision the Jury had come to, without maligning the conduct either of Judge or Jury, or attributing to them any corrupt influence. If they should be of that opinion, then must they acquit the defendants; but, on the contrary, if, upon mature consideration, they are of opinion the publication was written with an intent to vilify the administration of Justice, and to bring the trial by Jury into contempt, then must they find the defendants guilty. If it was meant as a public discussion, the facts on both sides should have been set forth, or the propriety of the verdict should not have been questioned. In short, if the Jury were of opinion the strictures alluded to were a fair and honest discussion of facts and their results, the defendants were not guilty; but if written to throw a stigma on the Judge and Jury, then they were libellous, and the defendants must be found guilty.

The Jury retired 20 minutes, and found the defendants Guilty.

Some individuals in the Court began hissing, and the Officer was directed to take them into custody, but they were not discovered.

Mr. ATTORNEY GENERAL said, he trusted his Lordship would not forget the indecent conduct of the individuals who had hissed; and the Court was immediately cleared.—Judgment will be pronounced to-morrow.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A dreadful affray took place on Sunday night, in Whitechapel, between a body of Portuguese and a body of American sailors. The forces had been assembling on both sides during the course of the day, and about ten o'clock at night they came to a serious engagement. They fought with sticks, stones, swords, knives, and every other weapon that they could muster. One of the Americans was killed on the spot, and several wounded, two of whom are not expected to recover. The man who was killed had his skull fractured by the point of the stick of an umbrella, which was forced into his head near his ear. Some of the ringleaders have been apprehended and committed to prison.

On Tuesday evening as a young man was driving a light cart, belonging to the Golden Cross Inn, with great fury, down Ave Maria-lane, the wheel came in contact with a truck, by which the vehicle was overturned, and the driver, with two other young men, thrown out with such violence, as to cause the most poignant sensation in the spectators for their lives; two of them, however, shortly after recovered so far as to be conveyed home, but the third was taken to the Hospital in a most alarming state. The furious manner in which these vehicles are driven through the streets, has long excited terror in passengers, and loudly demands the interference of the Police; perhaps, when a Magistrate receives a personal injury from them, the attention of his brethren may be excited to the subject.

MARRIAGES.

Lately, at Glasgow, Mr. Alexander Lock, to Miss Janet Gun. This is as it should be; for what's a *gun* without a *lock?*

At Broughton, Lincolnshire, the Rev. J. Giffard, of Raby, A. M. Chaplain, R. N. to Ann, widow of Thomas Swann, banker, of Gainsborough.

At Walcot church, Bath, Major Edward Batchellor, of the Madras Establishment, to Miss Everard, daughter of Edward Everard, Esq. of Middleton, near Lynn, in the county of Norfolk.

DEATHS.

Friday se'nnight, at Shrewsbury, Miss Martha Congreve, youngest daughter of Lieut.-General Congreve.

At Llanvon, near Aberystwith, Jeremiah Davies, the Welsh dwarf, aged 58, measuring only 46 inches in height; his person was the perfection of symmetry, which is rarely found in a dwarf. Great part of his time was spent in London, where he was well known, and to which place he intended to have walked the ensuing week.

A few days ago, aged 60, John Matthews, Esq. an eminent Solicitor, of Newnham, Gloucestershire. In the beginning of last month, the clothes of Mrs. Matthews caught fire, and occasioned her death—in endeavouring to extinguish the flames, Mr. Matthews was so much burnt, that he has lingered ever since in the most painful state.

Lately, at Adwick-le-street, aged 75, Edward Lynch, Esq. an Irish gentleman of respectable family and fortune. His death was occasioned by a fall from his horse, on the turnpike-road, near Hanging Wood, the Saturday preceding.

At Cabinteely, near Dublin, Mrs. Byrne, in consequence of a fractured skull, occasioned by a stone thrown into her carriage on the night of the late Masquerade in that City.

At Liverpool, on his way to Bath, the Rev. J. Crellin, late Vicar-General of the Isle of Man, and father of the Hon. D. Crellin, one of the Judges of that Island.

On Thursday evening, suddenly, Mr. Loats, of Woodyat's Inn, in Dorsetshire. Mr. Loats was very corpulent, and had for a short time been ill of a dropsy. He had been conversing with cheerfulness, and observing he had talked till he was thirsty, he ordered a glass of water, after drinking which, he sunk back in his chair, and instantly expired.

The same night, suddenly, of a paralytic seizure, Mr. Kerby, stocking-manufacturer, of Blandford, formerly of the Tax Office, London. The same afternoon, only a few hours before his dissolution, he had been speaking of the good state of his health, and detailing to a friend the plan of a little tour round the coast, which he intended to engage in before the expiration of the summer.

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